

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009**

**HANAFORD SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**200 MIDDLE ROAD**

**EAST GREENWICH, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE  
SUBJECT TO A VOTE 7:00p.m. Regular Session**

**I. Call to Order**

**The first March meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m.**

**Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo-Vice-Chair, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, Deidre Gifford, Paul Martin and Robert Durant as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Special Education, Paula Dillon.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.**

**III. Public Comments**

**Donna Hayes stated that last Saturday, Read Across America was held and East Greenwich had a booth. The Lt. Governor and newscasters read. She noted that many East Greenwich students stopped by.**

**Loren Shanos, a student at Frenchtown School, asked if there could be hot water in the bathrooms at Frenchtown School. Mr. Wilmarth will check into this matter.**

#### **V. Approval of Minutes-February 24, 2009 meeting**

**On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2009 meeting. Mr. Martin abstained.**

#### **VI. Superintendent's Report**

##### **a. State of the Schools**

**Mr. Meyers read his State of the Schools Report. Mr. Martin stated that he is very impressed with the document and is pleased that Mr. Meyers has spent 16 years in the East Greenwich Schools and knows the system.**

#### **VII. Action Items**

##### **a. Approval Calendar for the 2009-2010 school year**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Durant made a motion to amend to include changes. This was seconded by Mr. Martin and was unanimous.**

##### **b. Approval of New High School Schedule and Memorandum of Agreement**

**Mr. Meyers thanked the scheduling committee for their work on this schedule. He noted that the schedule was revised to meet and exceed the graduation standards. Mr. Meyers noted that the new schedule passed overwhelmingly this afternoon. Mrs. Nota stated that there were concerns on the four period block schedule and it**

didn't pass because of the length of time for the classes. She noted that this schedule has a five period day with an advisory built in to comply with state regulations. This also helps to provide more opportunities for electives. She noted that the EGEA, faculty and administration worked collaboratively and the schedule is fair to all. She is also grateful for the hard work put into it. Common planning time can now be instituted as well as prep time increasing, and duty times decreasing with the deletion of study halls. Donna Hayes stated that it was a great committee and they did what was best for student learning which was the primary focus. Mr. Boie added that it was nice to have more collaboration in the district in the spirit of what we can do versus what we have to do. Mrs. Gifford asked what happens in advisory. Mrs. Nota stated that advisories are personal connections with individual students, and it is considered instructional time. She also added that each faculty member will have a small group of students. Mrs. Nota added that the teachers will be cautioned that advisories are not the time to assume the role of school psychologists but it may flush out some problems. Mr. Durant asked how this schedule will work with vocational education students. Mrs. Nota responded that it does make a problem for students who leave the

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building. Mr. Craig MacKenzie, foreign language teacher at the high school, stated that advisories for upperclassmen will keep them on track, and for underclassmen it could develop relationships. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve

the new High School Schedule and Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Meyers stated that there are occasions when we can't find a substitute and we use our existing staff to cover. Mrs. Gifford is not sure she would approve the Memorandum of Agreement with regard to Advisory being exempt from the formal observation process that is part of the formal evaluation. Mrs. Nota stated that she would have no qualms about speaking to a teacher who she felt was not using their time appropriately. She trusts the professionals who work at East Greenwich High school and noted that advisory is a small piece of a big picture at the high school. Mr. Meyers stated that the key is for a teacher to be observed for the evaluative process. Mrs. Winters stated that kids liked the advisories and it is important for freshmen. The motion passed unanimously.

c. High School Trip to Costa Rica from April 8, 2010 to April 17, 2010  
Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the high school trip to Costa Rica. Mr. MacKenzie stated that this trip has been very successful in the future and creates an opportunity for our kids to speak Spanish. Mrs. Palumbo stated that many students have had the opportunity to take advantage of this trip. Mr. MacKenzie noted that ACIS is the company which is the best to deal with. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval of FY 2010 Budget

It was noted that the truck is out as well as FM systems and now the budget is slightly lower than 2.67% which was requested by the town manager. It was noted that we didn't make any adjustments to the COA program. We also don't know about state aid cuts in the

supplemental budget or the FY 2010 budget. It could come in less. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Gifford to approve the budget of \$32,706,227. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. Financial Report**

### **a. Federal Stimulus package**

RIPEC provided a packet concerning the Supplemental Budget and local Government

Spending. Mrs. Guliano stated that the stimulus money will be given over two years. She also noted that the retirement section of the supplemental budget will not pass in its present form. Mr. Meyers stated that money will be given to the town for this year if it comes in as additional state aid. Mrs. Gifford asked if this stimulus money will be used to invest in infrastructure. Mr. Meyers responded that we have a vision of an Early Childhood Center.

### **b. Audit Report and Management Letter**

Mrs. Crawford stated that this will be discussed at the March 16th meeting between the Town Council and School Committee.

### **c. UCOA Update**

Mrs. Guliano stated that the funding formula may be based on the uniform chart of accounts next year. She should have a draft by mid-week. The town is about a month off target.

## **VIII. Discussion**

### **a. Review Community Use of School Facilities Policy and Procedures**

The application form for building rental and procedures needs to be amended. Youth groups may not have the money for rental fees which can be as much as \$48 per hour on weekends when a

custodian is needed. We don't charge the PTG's now and the Academy Players are not charged because they buy us equipment in lieu of payment. The Finance Committee would like us to be more consistent and to put together a schedule for fees for the School Committee. The policy is already in existence but needs revision. Mr. Meyers noted that if it is a fund raising event the fees should be part of the budget for that activity.

#### **b. Review Capitol Improvement Plan**

Strategic Building Solutions compiled the list. The Department of Education is particular about us following the list. Mrs. Palumbo stated that water bubblers at the high school are leaking and rusting. Mr. Wilmarth will look into replacing these. Everything on year one has been completed. Mr. Meyers noted this is the first time we are on any schedule for capitol improvements. He added that these are not funded by the warrant articles. But we still have money left in the warrant

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articles. Mrs. Winters asked about lights in the high school library being replaced. Mr. Wilmarth responded that when ESCO comes through, these will be replaced. It was noted that the School Committee needs to make a formal request to the Town Council to use the Capitol Improvement fund. A question was asked about snow removal equipment, noting that the sidewalks have been icy this winter. Mr. Meyers stated that we need to sit down with town officials and the Department of Public Works this spring.

### **c. East Greenwich Energy Conservation Committee**

**Steve Dyer represented the Energy Conservation Committee, which included members, Liz Damato, Jerry Meyer and Marie Hennedy. He noted that the committee was formed a year ago. He also stated that in the Building Committee minutes, the words thermal, wind, geothermal, sustainable and oil were not mentioned once in the reports. Mr. Meyers stated that the Department of Education wants us to contact the energy office about the economic stimulus package.**

**He also added that we have a subcommittee of the Building Committee to pursue grants to support renewable energy, adding that they explored energy products to comply with the New England High Performing Standards in order to get additional reimbursement.**

### **d. ESCO Update**

**Mr. Wilmarth stated that there was a meeting with the RI Department of Energy who gave them some tips. They urged them to go with a contractor certified by the State. We need a third party to make sure the ESCO recommendations are met. Mr. Wilmarth stated that we pay the company for energy savings and the contract pays for itself. Mr. Meyers stated that he is comfortable knowing that we have the services of Strategic Building Solutions. The Department of Education told us that certain contracts will be eligible for 30% reimbursement. He also noted that we have energy projects ready to be done.**

## **IX. Subcommittee Reports**

### **a. Policy Committee Update**

**A meeting will b set up shortly with this committee since**

**several policies are ready to go.**

**X. School Committee Concerns**

**Mrs. Records sent two policies to the School Committee for future consideration. They are for Personnel and Technology. A snow removal update is expected at the next meeting. Mrs. Palumbo stated that parents have asked about a trade off on prom dresses with the proceeds going to the school. She would like to use the list serve.**

**Mr. Meyers suggested doing this project through the Student Council or have an existing organization sponsor it. Eldredge School is having a fundraiser to raise money for new computers. They are aware there is a new technology initiative.**

**XI. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn and to go into Executive Session at 9:50p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for the discussion of Teacher Contract Negotiations.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**